

Wildlife Resources Section

Curtis I. Taylor, Chief

The Wildlife Resources Section is responsible for the management of the state's wildlife resources for the use and enjoyment of its citizens. The primary objective of the Section is to maintain and perpetuate fish and wildlife at levels compatible with the available habitat, while providing maximum opportunities for recreation, research and education.

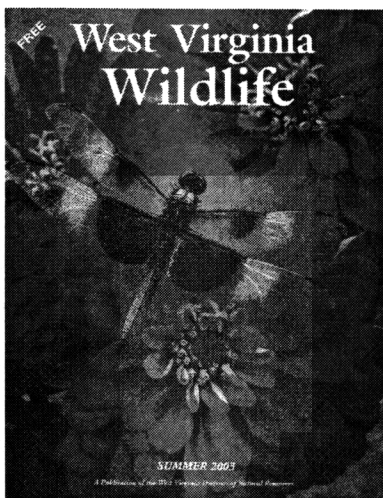
Administration

Promotion and Outreach

The Section's education efforts consist of formal teacher education and informal presentations to schools and civic groups. The number of Project WILD workshops more than doubled this year with 15 workshops being attended by 341 educators. Five of the workshops were conducted for student teachers and one was held for early childhood educators. A long-awaited project, correlation of Project WILD activities to the state standards in Science and Language Arts, was completed. This should attract more interest among teachers in WILD and will make it more useful for those attending workshops.

More than 25 presentations were given to approximately 1,500 people, mostly students. Staff also participated in youth education activities hosted by the DNR, including Junior Conservation Camp and Youth Environmental Day, and other state and federal agencies. Personnel spent many hours updating the hunting and fishing regulations in printed format and on the DNR Web site.

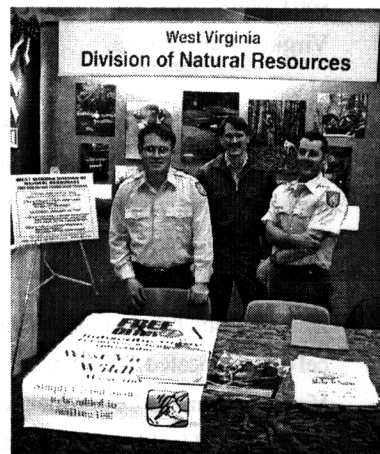
The Section used its Division of Tourism lottery funds to promote the state's wildlife resources, wildlife programs and recreational opportunities. The quarterly magazine *West Virginia Wildlife* is sent directly to approximately 15,000 people



with the remaining 10,000 copies distributed at fairs, schools, and upon request.

Advertisements were placed in both electronic media (TV, radio and Internet) and print media (magazines and newspapers). The ads promoted hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, special events, the goWILD! online licensing system, and the Wildlife Center. Ads were placed in state newspapers as well as regional and national magazines.

Section personnel staffed three out-of-state travel shows along with the WV State Fair and the Hunt Show in Charleston, providing information to tens of thousands of prospective license buyers.



The Section sponsored and provided technical assistance and interviews for *Woods & Waters*, a weekly, 90-second TV spot shown on evening newscasts in Charleston and Clarksburg. The West Virginia Outdoors radio program was broadcast over 57 MetroNews stations.

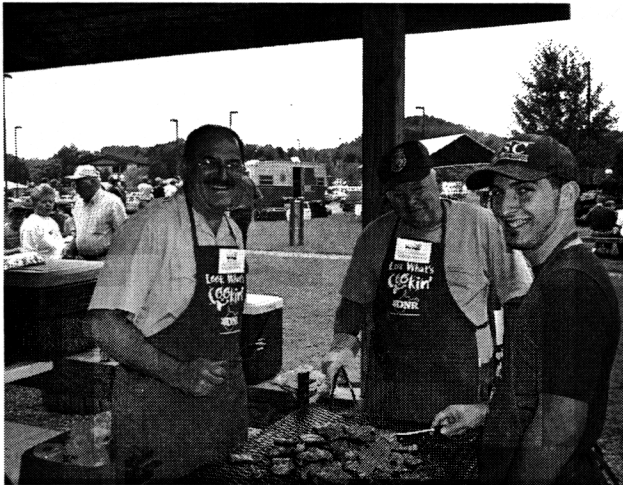
The Wildlife Resources Section, along with the West Virginia Wild Turkey Federation, B.A.S.S. Federation, and Mossy Oak, sponsored an essay contest for the third annual "Governor's Spring Turkey Challenge." More than 200 contestants vied for 10 winning slots. The winners, ranging in age from 10 to 17, spent two days hunting and fishing with expert outdoorsmen who donated their time, equipment and

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expertise to increase our youth's understanding and appreciation of our natural resources and heritage through the Governor's Youth in the Outdoors Program.

The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program, started in West Virginia in 1997, continues to be well received. Two workshops attended by 137 participants were held, one in spring and one in fall. Participants attended hands-on classes in hunting, fishing, backpacking, canoeing and various other outdoor skills.

Nearly 15,000 visitors attended the National Hunting and Fishing Day celebration at Stonewall Jackson State Park. This two-day celebration is the largest event taking place on



a West Virginia State Park and is the result of year-long intensive planning and cooperation between all DNR sections and the West Virginia Wildlife Federation. Visitors can browse the wares of almost 100 vendors, participate in numerous hands-on activities including fishing, archery, and firearms shooting, and watch hunting and fishing oriented demonstrations. Youth ages 10 to 17 can sign up to participate in the Governor's Youth Challenge, which tests their outdoor knowledge and skills.

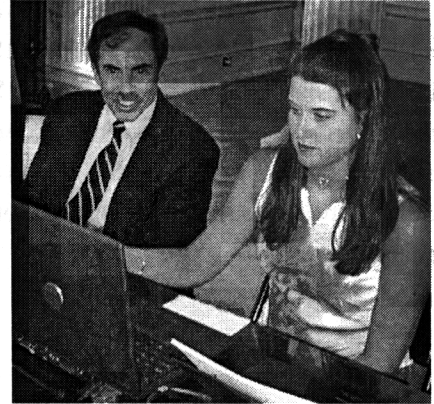
West Virginia Wildlife Endowment Fund

The Wildlife Endowment Fund received one donation of \$1,000. Lifetime hunting fishing and trapping license sales in 2002 totaled 1,288, which generated \$411,495.00. The market value of the Wildlife Endowment Fund on 06/30/2003 was \$24,346,217.14.

Hunting and Fishing License Unit

The Hunting and Fishing License Unit is responsible for administering all aspects of the hunting and fishing license system. The unit processed 1,222,357 transactions and collected \$15,729,304.50 in license revenue in 2002.

On August 4, 2002, Governor Bob Wise held a press conference to unveil the Division of Natural Resources' new online system called goWILD! The new system proved to be very popular with 7,666 transactions accounting



for \$552,786 in the first four months of operation. The goWILD! System provides hunters and anglers a convenient method of acquiring their licenses from home 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The system does not charge the license buyer an issuing fee and license buyers may return at any time to reprint a duplicate license.

The Division of Natural Resources began in-house development of a point-of-sale hunting and fishing license system for retail agents in July of 2003. The system will be called "goWILD! – POS" and is scheduled to be online by the spring of 2004.

Capital Improvements

The Wildlife Resources Section continued an aggressive capital improvements program to meet the needs of hunters, anglers and other wildlife recreationists. Funds for capital improvements are derived from 10 percent of the hunting and fishing license revenues and from the Conservation Stamp that all licensed hunters and anglers are required to purchase. This program remains one of the most visible efforts of the Division of Natural Resources, providing such facilities as wildlife management areas, shooting ranges, fishing and boating access sites, and small impoundments.

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Land acquisitions for 2002-03 included the purchase of property to expand nine existing wildlife management areas. Mountain Valley Lake, a 39-acre impoundment in Summers County, was also purchased. Acquisition of public land, stream and lake access, and wetlands is a high priority within the Wildlife Resources Section.

During the fiscal year, \$1,925,886 was spent on capital improvements. The largest expenditure (\$488,664) was for land acquisition and the second largest (\$463,293) was for the construction of buildings at the new Apple Grove Hatchery. All capital improvement funds can carry over for a period of three years so that long-term projects may be completed.

The year's major projects completed were: two residences and a hatchery building at the Apple Grove Fish Hatchery; two new courtesy docks at existing boating access sites; repairs to the dam at Edwards Run; paving of the parking areas at eight boating access sites; and improvements to two existing shooting ranges.

Hunters Helping the Hungry

Hunters donated a record 2,520 deer to the Hunters Helping the Hungry program during the 2002 season. These donations totaled 80,390 pounds of venison. Hunters Helping the Hungry is administered by the Division of Natural Resources in cooperation with the Mountaineer and Huntington Food Banks, West Virginia's only members of the Second Harvest program.

Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License Sales By Class Calendar Year 2002

<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Adult:				
A-I	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 425.00	68	\$ 28,900.00
AB-L	Hunting and Fishing & Trapping	\$ 570.00	266	\$151,620.00
A1-L	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 75.00	35	\$ 2,625.00
B-L	Fishing	\$ 325.00	49	\$ 15,925.00
O-L	Trout	\$ 150.00	117	\$ 17,550.00
				<u>\$216,620.00</u>
Infant:				
A-I-L	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 213.00	17	\$ 3,621.00
AB-I-L	Hunting and Fishing & Trapping	\$ 285.00	543	\$154,755.00
B-I-L	Fishing	\$ 325.00	21	\$ 6,825.00
O-I-L	Trout	\$ 75.00	219	\$ 16,425.00
				<u>\$181,626.00</u>

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Hunting and Fishing License Sales By Class and Group Calendar Year 2002

Class	Description	Price	Number	Amount
Resident:				
A	Hunting	\$ 11.00	67,436	\$ 741,796.00
B	Fishing	11.00	95,682	1,052,502.00
I	National Forest Hunting & Fishing	2.00	29,610	59,220.00
N	Antlerless Deer Hunting	8.00	120,398	963,184.00
P	Boar Hunting	5.00	2,053	10,265.00
RG	Additional Deer-Gun	10.00	68,734	687,340.00
RB	Additional Deer-Bow	10.00	37,661	376,610.00
U	Archery Deer	5.00	5,760	28,800.00
V	Muzzleloader Deer	5.00	2,904	14,520.00
W	Turkey	5.00	1,345	6,725.00
X	Sportsman Hunting & Fishing	22.00	121,069	2,663,518.00
XJ	Jr. Sportsman Hunting & Fishing	12.00	8,595	103,140.00
A-1	Pistol	5.00	14,933	74,665.00
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	4.00	24,992	99,968.00
O	Trout Fishing	7.50	111,283	834,622.50
MW	Migratory Waterfowl	5.00	1,915	9,575.00
CS	Conservation Stamp	3.00	257,603	772,809.00
Subtotal			971,973	\$ 8,499,259.50
Nonresident:				
I	National Forest Hunting & Fishing	\$ 2.00	19,741	\$ 39,482.00
E	Nonresident Hunting	100.00	42,300	4,230,000.00
EE	Nonresident Bear Hunting	150.00	432	64,800.00
F	Nonresident Fishing	30.00	10,093	302,790.00
H	Nonresident Hunting; 6-day	20.00	1,692	33,840.00
K	Nonresident Fishing; 3-day	5.00	27,312	136,560.00
NN	Nonresident Antlerless Deer	25.00	19,589	489,725.00
RRG	Nonresident Additional Deer-Gun	30.00	13,342	400,260.00
RRB	Nonresident Additional Deer-Bow	30.00	3,457	103,710.00
UU	Nonresident Archery Deer	25.00	9,658	241,450.00
VV	Nonresident Muzzleloader Deer	25.00	4,602	115,050.00
WW	Nonresident Turkey	25.00	6,696	167,400.00
A-1	Pistol	5.00	1,264	6,320.00
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	4.00	432	1,728.00
OO	Trout Fishing	10.00	15,463	154,630.00
MW	Migratory Waterfowl	5.00	162	810.00
CSLE	Nonresident Conservation Stamp/Law Enforcement	10.00	74,149	741,490.00
Subtotal			250,384	\$ 7,230,045.00
Grand total			1,222,357	\$ 15,729,304.50